

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A mixing rotor for use in a batch mixer including a mixing chamber, the mixing rotor comprising a plurality of mixing blades, each mixing blade having a tip for defining a tip clearance against an inner surface of the mixing chamber where the mixing rotor is to be rotatably placed to impart shearing forces to a material to be mixed in the tip clearance, wherein the plurality of mixing blades include a pair of longer blades twisted in such a direction as to cause the material to flow toward a longitudinal middle side of the mixing rotor, and the pair of longer blades include a first longer blade which is linear in a development of the mixing rotor developed into a plane about its longitudinal axis and extends from an edge of one longitudinal end of the mixing rotor toward the longitudinal middle side thereof by or beyond the longitudinal middle thereof, and a second longer blade which is substantially nonlinear in the development and extends from an edge of the other longitudinal end of the mixing rotor toward the longitudinal middle side thereof beyond the longitudinal middle thereof and whose helix angle gradually increases toward the other longitudinal end.

11. (Twice Amended) A batch mixer comprising:

a chamber including a mixing chamber; and

a mixing rotor rotatably placed in the mixing chamber, and including a plurality of mixing blades, each mixing blade having a tip for defining a tip clearance against an inner surface of the mixing chamber to impart shearing forces to a material to be mixed in the tip clearance, wherein the plurality of mixing blades include a pair of longer blades twisted in such a direction as to cause the material to flow toward a longitudinal middle side of the